

REMARKS

By Office Action mailed February 12, 2004, pending claims 15-24 stand rejected and pending claims 25-153 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, reconsideration of which is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and following remarks. Claims 15-23 have been canceled. Claims 63, 70, 72, 95 and 114 have been amended. Claims 24-153 are now pending.

Amendments to the Claims

Applicants have amended claims 63, 70, 72, 95 and 114 to correct a number of minor typographical errors. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

Double Patenting

Claim 24 stands rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,197,750 (the “‘750 Patent”). To obviate this ground of rejection, a Terminal Disclaimer over the ‘750 Patent is submitted herewith.

Rejections of Claims 15-23

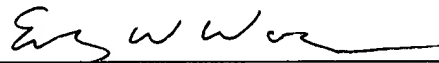
Claims 15-23 stand rejected for the reasons set forth on pages 3-7 of the present Office Action. Although Applicants respectively disagree with the Examiner’s conclusions, in order to expedite allowance of claims 24-153, Applicants have canceled claims 15-23 without prejudice to the prosecution of the canceled subject matter in one or more related applications. Accordingly, this ground of rejection has been obviated.

In view of the above amendment and remarks, allowance of claims 24-153 is respectfully requested. A good faith effort has been made to place this application in condition for allowance. However, should any further issue require attention prior to allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at (206) 622-4900 to resolve the same. Furthermore, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure:
Terminal Disclaimer

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